



The National Textile and Apparel Team Newsletter

June 2003

<http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>

www.export.gov

www.BuyUSA.gov

The National Textile and Apparel Team of the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Commercial Service, supports the U.S. textile and apparel industries export initiatives by offering a portfolio of international trade and counseling services.

John Schmonsees – team leader
Tel. 336.333.5345

Monica Montavon-- deputy team leader
Tel. 202.482.2257

Leticia Arias— Tel. 310.235.7204

Jennifer Boger – Tel. 202.482.0929

Larry Brill – Director, Market Expansion Division,
OTEXA Tel. 202.482.4877

Shikha Bhatnagar – Tel. 202.482.3400

Kintoya Davis – Tel. 202.482.4457

Todd DeLelle – Tel. 202.482.4877

Anna Flaaten – Tel. 202.482.3400

Jennifer Harrington – Tel. 202.482.0595

Bobby Hines— Tel. 213.894.4231

Mary Lynn Landgraf – Tel. 202.482.5153

Linda Martinich – Tel. 202.482.3588

Patrice Mickens—field support specialist
Tel. 803.765.5345

Linda Santucci— Tel. 305.526.7425 ext. 22

Richard Stetson – Tel. 202.482.3400

Richard Swanson – Director, Newport Beach
Tel. 949.660.1688

Rochelle Williams— Tel. 619.557.5899

Anastasia Xenias -- Tel. 212.809.2685

EU Chemical Regulations Affecting Textile Exports

The Textile and Apparel Team would like to make you aware of an issue that could affect your clients' ability to export to the EU and to ask you for your assistance.

The EU has proposed new chemical regulations, called REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals), which will require the Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of chemical substances marketed in the EU. This is not limited to the actual chemicals listed, but also includes all products that incorporate the chemicals. The proposed regulations are expected to impact many industries, however, the possibility of adverse effects on the textile/apparel industry has been specifically highlighted.

The proposed EU regulations have been posted on-line for comment at <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/chemicals/index.htm>. Please note that comments are due to the EU by early July. Textile-specific information regarding the EU chemical strategy may be found in the attached documents from EURATEX, the European textile trade association. This information is also on OTEXA's Export Advantage website in the Hot Issues section (<http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>).



Euratex paper on EU chem strategy.



Euratex-usersjointstatement 3-10-03

Because of the potential impact on U.S. producers of fibers, yarns, fabrics, apparel and made-up textile products, we are encouraging U.S. industry to become aware of how these proposed chemical regulations may affect their ability to do business in the EU, and possibly elsewhere in the future. We also encourage industry to submit comments to the EU regarding any concerns they may have about the proposed regulations and to discuss this issue with their trade association representatives.

In an effort to raise textile/apparel industry awareness, OTEXA and the Office of Europe would like to host a conference call with industry, possibly during the first week of June. We invite your participation also, as you are the ones who work with industry on a daily basis. It may also be possible that your clients could participate as well. Details on a conference call will be forthcoming and coordinated through OTEXA.

We would appreciate your assistance in spreading the word about the proposed EU chemical regulations and offering DOC as an information source. Contacts for additional information on the proposed regulations should be addressed to Kim Copperthite, DOC Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals, and Biotechnology Division (Kim_Copperthite@ita.doc.gov or tel. 202-482-5124); Don Wright, DOC Office of European Union and Regional Affairs (e-mail: Don_Wright@ita.doc.gov or tel. 202-482-5844); or Jim Sanford, USTR (202-395-4620).

Please feel free to contact Linda Martinich or Shikha Bhatnagar (tel: 202.482.3400) if you have any questions or if you or your clients would be interested in participating in a USG/industry conference call in early June.

EU legislation applicable to textile exports

▪ **Product Liability and Product Safety**

Directive 85/374/EEC sets out the EU rules on product liability. The producer is liable for damages caused by a defect in his product. The victim must prove the existence of the defect and a causal link between defect and injury (bodily as well as material). A reduction of liability of the manufacturer is granted in cases of negligence on the part of the victim. A "development risk" can also free the manufacturer from liability. The statute of limitations is ten years.

The General Product Safety directive (2001/95/EEC) aims to ensure that products placed on the market are safe, and places the obligation to place only safe products on the market on producers. The products covered are those intended for consumers or likely to be used by consumers, supplied in the course of a commercial activity or the provision of a service. This directive, which comes into effect on January 15, 2004, replaces Directive 92/59/EEC. The main changes include an obligation of the producer and distributor to notify the Commission in case of a problem with the product, provisions for recall, the creation of a European Product Safety Network, and a ban on exports to third countries of products that are deemed unsafe in the EU.

▪ **Dye Standards**

The EU restricts the marketing and use of certain dangerous substances. The concerned Directive (2002/61/EC) of July 19, 2002 refers specifically to the use of certain azodyes in the manufacturing of textile and leather articles. The full-text document can be found at:

http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/en/dat/2002/l/_243/l_24320020911en00150018.pdf.

On January 6, 2003 Directive 2003/03/EC bans the marketing and use of a chromate-based azo dye for textiles from June 30, 2004. An extensive risk assessment found

that this dye is toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. It does not readily biodegrade, and releases into waste-water during the dyeing process are unavoidable.

More information.....

European Commission Textile website:

http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/trade/goods/textile/index_en.htm.

Companies may consult this website for more information on the EU's textile policy, import quotas etc.

European Commission's SIGL database (specialized in textiles):

<http://sigl.cec.eu.int/query.html>. This database contains detailed information on percentages of quotas which have been used up, by country and product. For information on how much of the quota has been used up at any given moment, and a full description of textile product categories: <http://sigl.cec.eu.int/information.html>.

Department of Commerce Office of Textiles and Apparel:

<http://otexa.ita.doc.gov>.

For exporter-oriented information on EU textile legislation.

American Textile Manufacturers Institute:

www.atmi.org

The European Apparel and Textile

Organization: www.euratex.org

EU Commission contacts:

DG Trade: Frauke Somer, 02/296.17.79 (on textiles import requirements)

DG Customs: Philippe Cuisson, 02/295.27.94 (on rules of origin)

Consultants specialized in textiles, clothing, footwear, and leather issues:

A&MV Public Relations Int
Steenweg naar Alsemberg 912/2
1654 Huizingen
Tel/Fax: 32.2.361.50.28/32.2.361.50.26

Anthonisen & Associates
Rue des Deux Eglises 37 Box 2
1000 Brussels
Tel/Fax: 32.2.285.01.08/32.2.230.33.39

Eamonn Bates Europe Public Affairs
Avenue d'Auderghem 67
1040 Brussels
Tel/Fax: 32.2.286.94.94/32.2.286.94.95

Edelman Public Relations Worldwide
Rue des Deux Eglises 20
1000 Brussels
Tel/Fax: 32.2.227.61.70/32.2.227.61.89

Euralia-Guerin
Rue Montoyer 47
1000 Brussels
Tel/Fax: 32.2.506.88.20/32.2.506.88.25

European Strategy
Avenue de Tervuren 13A
1040 Brussels
Tel/Fax: 32.2.732.70.40/32.2.732.71.76

Eurotec Consulting
Rond Point Schuman 9 Box 15
1040 Brussels
Tel/Fax: 32.2.282.00.80/32.2.230.31.68

International Technology & Trade
Associates
Avenue Louise 65 Box 11
1050 Brussels
Tel/Fax: 32.2.535.78.98/32.2.535.77.00

Kate Thomas & Kleyn
Baron de Vironlaan 5
1700 Dilbeek
Tel/Fax: 32.2.569.36.44/32.2.569.47.80

Puyenbroeck Intelligence Access
Hammeveld 6
3061 Leefdaal
Tel/Fax: 32.2.767.07.90/32.2.768.02.69

For further information, please contact the Commercial Service at the US Mission to the EU in Brussels: Flavie Guérin – email:

flavie.guerin@mail.doc.gov